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way as the digital extremities of the hand. 3. The minimum energy of stimulation, or the least perceptible stimulus, is variable according to the different points of the surface of the skin; in the successive stimulations at equal intervals, as with the tuning-fork, the only sensation which results is not produced by the fusion of the impressions through their persistence, as Bloch would have us believe, but through the insensibility to weak stimuli; that is why the stimulating point is felt as being firm if it is in immediate contact with the skin. 4. In tactile sensations properly so-called, that is, those of the skin, it seems that there is no persistence of the impressions, when the stimuli are limited to and produced by an obtuse point. This does not say that there is an accumulation of small impressions to produce a single result, as usually happens for some other senses and for electrical cutaneous stimulation (Richet). These phenomena on the contrary occur when there is a transformation of tactile impressions into sensations of pressure, i. e., when we cause an obtuse point to penetrate into the surface of the skin by pressure, and when there is a powerful stimulus with a large surface of special character. 5. It appears also that there is not any primary action, or period of latency, in the tactile sensations by which the sensation is developed in a shorter or a longer time, as happens in the case of the retina; it seems that excitation of a purely mechanical nature produces its effects immediately, and if it does not produce them at the first moment, then there is no perceptible effect; one can explain in the same manner also the lack of persistence, in addition to action of a weak stimulus, by the absence of the time of latency in the terminal organs of touch. If there be a primary action it must be of a duration absolutely incalculable, since a series of sensations with an interval of 1-1000 sec. can be perceived. 6. On the mucous membrane of the glans penis there is no sensation of a tactile character such as is found in the skin.

E. W. SCRIPTURE.

SERGI, *Ueber einige Eigenthümlichkeiten des Tastsinns*, Zt. f. Psychologie u. Physiol. Sinn. 1892, III. 175.

An unacknowledged translation of preceding.

E. W. S.

BUYS, *Recherches experimentale sur la sensibilité de l'ovaire*, Archiv. ital. de Biol. 1891 I.

Chaiguot had found that, in very many cases, during the later weeks of pregnancy touch upon the abdomen resulted in temporary, but clearly localized, pain of a peculiar kind. As exceptions were not wanting, it was left to decide whether the painful cases were due to disease of the ovary or simply to the greater sensitiveness of the individual. By means of an incision from behind, Buys contrived to apply an induction current to the ovaries of six dogs, and also to use direct mechanical stimulation. Strong irritation of the ovary produces intense pain, dilation of the pupil, increase of blood pressure through vascular constriction and slowing of the pulse through increase of the tonus of the pneumogastric. We are thus led to believe that numerous morbid alterations of these organs in certain circumstances influence circulation by affecting the vaso-motor centers. Thus may be explained, through ovarian irritation, disorders of local circulation so common during the menstrual period of life, or at the close of it.

Harvard.

J. F. ANGELL.

BITOT ET SABRAZÈS, *L'analgésie et l'atrophie des testicules dans l'ataxie locomotrice progressive*, Rev. de med. 1891.

This is a critical account of a number of cases of locomotor ataxia, from which conclusion is reached that analgesia of the testicles is so

frequent—though not invariable—under these conditions as to point strongly to a causal connection. This is indicated by the number of cases in which the analgesia appears at the inception of motor-inco-ordination.

Harvard.

J. R. ANGELL.

H. NOTHNAGEL, *Schmerzhafte Empfindungen bei Herzerkrankungen*, Zett. f. Klinische Medecin, 1891, ss. 209.

This article is mainly of value to the physician who would use the painful sensations in the cardial regions for the purpose of diagnosing heart affections in cases where the ordinary physical examination fails to reveal the cause of the trouble, and where, at the same time, there seems to be no functional nervous disorder which would account for these sensations by referring them to a "subjective" origin. Dr. Nothnagel concludes that the muscles of the heart are less concerned in the production of these sensations than the general circulatory system, but thinks that, further than this, it is impossible to reach any precise and satisfactory conclusions, owing to the complicated nature of the cardial nervous system. The cutaneous hyperalgesia and neuralgia found in some cases, he refers to as eccentric spreadings from the main seat of the disease such as we often find in diseases of the vital organs.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CORRE, *Crime et Suicide*, Paris, 1891.

After having in another work studied the criminal from the natural-history and medical point of view, the author proposes now to examine the genetic conditions of antisocial impulsiveness. The book consists in a general etiology of crime completed by a parallel etiology of suicide. As crime varies according to time and place, it is not definable from the act, nor from an antithesis to morality, which is everywhere conventional. The variability of sentiments is precisely the cause of the different interpretations given to correlative or derived actions. The opinion of the majority creates morality and laws. Natural crime is a conventional offense to the average opinion of each collectively. The characteristic of criminals resides in non-conformance to the social obligation of the moment. Man possesses just enough free will to regulate the modes of his collective relations under the form of a contract of necessity. There is no more responsibility in the absolute sense of the word than there is absolute liberty. Under the influence of alcoholism and of social perturbations, crime and insanity present a parallel evolution; the same causes which prepare or determine one affect the other. These diverse forms of aberrant or antisocial impulsiveness spring from the same solicitations. As one observes collective crimes under imitation and suggestion by example (crowds), so he also discovers collective insanity or demoniacal epidemics. It is true that degeneracy of all forms furnishes a large proportion of criminals; yet there is a sufficiently frequent manifestation of impulsivity in individuals of feeble mind or feeble moral resistance. The criminal is not a retrogression, but he is incomplete in evolution. The author does not admit a criminal type in the anthropological sense, but there are criminal types in the psychological sense; one, which comprehends the majority of criminals and includes a part of the criminals by occasion, is latent. The passionate type comprises those who are not degraded, but who are suddenly surprised by a criminal solicitation in a moment of exceptional need. There is another type including subjects of an unstable character, in whom reflection, after the first omission, is not sufficient to hinder a second fault; they are without hereditary taint, their criminality is acquired. A third type consists of those